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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,698	02/08/2002	Wijeyaratnam Shantharuban	JEN-002	5125

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SCHNECK & SCHNECK
P.O. BOX 2-E
SAN JOSE, CA 95109-0005

EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2167

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/018,698

Applicant(s)

SHANTHARUBAN ET AL.

Examiner

Leslie Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/12 March 2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed 12 March 2002, has been received, entered into the record, and considered. See attached form PTO-1449.

Preliminary Amendment

2. Applicants' Preliminary Amendment, filed 08 February 2002, has been received, entered into the record, and considered.
3. The amendment deleted claims 15-16, and amended claims 1-4, 6, 9, 11, and 13-14.

Priority

4. Receipt is acknowledged of priority papers, United Kingdom Application Number 9914471.9, submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record as paper number 2 in the file.

Specification

5. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in

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upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- No CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- No Heading for the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION
- No BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION
- No Heading for BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S)
- No Heading for DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Appropriate correction is required.

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7. The claims are objected to because the lines are crowded too closely together, making reading and entry of amendments difficult. Substitute claims with lines one and one-half or **double spaced** on good quality paper are required. See 37 CFR 1.52(b).

Drawings

8. Figures 6 and 7 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

9. The drawings are objected to because the label "**SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)**" must be removed. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered

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and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

11. Claims 1-8 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Yagasaki** (U.S. Patent 6,125,353).

Regarding claim 1, **Yagasaki** teaches a product catalogue production system comprising data storage apparatus for storing data relating to a plurality of products characterized in that said data is stored in a data structure comprising:

a). a first data store where attributes of said plurality of products are each identified by an attribute code (i.e., product code, store code, and category code)(Figs. 4-6), and

b). a second data store where each attribute of a given product of the plurality of products is recorded as a product record, each product record comprising a product identifier (i.e., product name) for said given product and one of the attribute codes from said first store, the total number of product records for a given product being equal to the number of product attributes possessed by said given product (Fig. 6, rows A001-A007 etc.).

Regarding claims 2 and 7, **Yagasaki** further teaches wherein said product records comprise an attribute value, said attribute value being associated with the attribute code in a separate data record (col. 5, lines 23-32).

Regarding claim 3, **Yagasaki** further teaches wherein said plurality of product data records are stored in one storage table of relational database (i.e., product master table) (Fig. 3, element 33).

Regarding claim 4, **Yagasaki** further teaches wherein said data storage apparatus further comprises a data store for storing product classification data in the form of classification data records associated with said product codes (col. 6, lines 60-62, col. 7, lines 5-36; Fig. 8).

Regarding claims 5 and 8, **Yagasaki** further teaches wherein product code/classification data association is a many-to-many association (i.e., J0001 belongs to stores IDM001 and IDM002 and store IDM001 can have categories J0001 and J0002)(Fig. 6).

Regarding claims 6, 11, and 14, **Yagasaki** further teaches wherein said data storage apparatus further comprises a store for product structure data, whereby a set of possible attributes is defined for a product falling within a product classification, and a data store for product structure control data, whereby a product structure is associated with a product classification (col. 1, lines 30-34; Fig. 10).

Regarding claim 12, **Yagasaki** further teaches wherein said plurality of classification data records are stored in one storage table of a relational database (i.e., categories master table) (Fig. 1, element 11).

Regarding claim 13, **Yagasaki** further teaches wherein the classification attribute data item is an attribute code associated with an attribute value, and the attribute value is associated with attribute code in a separate data record (col. 4, lines 38-41; col. 5, lines 11-13; Fig. 3, element 32 and 33).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

13. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Yagasaki** (U.S. Patent 6,125,353) as applied to claims 1-8 and 11-14 above and in view of **Jammes et al.** ("Jammes") (U.S. Patent 6,484,149) .

Regarding claim 9, **Yagasaki** does not explicitly teach wherein a classification data record comprises a pointer to a further classification data record, to define a relationship in a classification hierarchy.

Jammes, however, teaches 'wherein a classification data record comprises a pointer to a further classification data record, to define a relationship in a classification hierarchy' as display the hierarchical structure of groups of an electronic store. The

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second group contained in the sedans group is represented as having a Product_ID "P0122" and a name "Toyota Camry" (col. 31, lines 49-52 and lines 59-65; Fig. 7D; Fig. 5B).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Jammes's** teaching would have allowed **Yagasaki's** to advantageously permits a merchant to design an electronic store having a navigational layout which resembles an actual store. Thus, the hierarchy products and product groups may be conveniently based on the product categorization for an actual store, such as floors, departments, subdepartment etc... to offer consumers a friendly and familiar shopping elements as suggested by **Jammes** col. 3, lines 35-44.

Regarding claim 10, **Yagasaki** does not explicitly teach wherein pointer is a pointer to a parent classification data record.

Jammes, however, teaches 'wherein a classification data record comprises a pointer to a further classification data record, to define a relationship in a classification hierarchy' as in the case the add relationship, the add-branch routine receives as parameters the Group_ID, the Group_Name, Group_ID value, and the Parent Value associated with the drag source element (col. 35, lines 37-45; col. 37, tables 12-14, RELATED ID TYPE column, Fig. 5B; col. 36, table 10, col. 37, tables 12-14, RELATED ID TYPE column).

Conclusion

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14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Peterson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,324,522 B2)

Danish et al. (U.S. Patent 6,275,821 B1)

Wiecha (U.S. Patent 5,870,717)

McKearney (U.S. Patent 6,035,298)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4120. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30am - 6:30 pm.

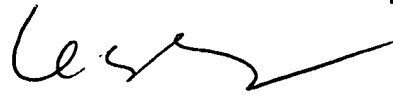
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Wong', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leslie Wong
Patent Examiner
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LW

December 10, 2004